BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 95-1089-E - ORDER NO. 95-1379

JULY 24, 1995

IN RE: Request of South Carolina Electric &   ) ORDER APPROVING
       Gas, Carolina Power & Light, and   ) WAIVERS AND
       Lockhart Power Company for Approval of   ) ESTABLISHING
       Waiver of Commission Rules 103-318   ) MODIFICATIONS
       and 103-373.   )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of

South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of South Carolina

Electric & Gas (SCE&G), Carolina Power & Light (CP&L), and Lockhart

Power Company (Lockhart) for a waiver of certain provisions of the

Commission's Regulations, and for approval of alternate procedures.

In Order No. 95-1355, this Commission approved waivers and

established modifications of certain regulations as proposed by

Duke Power Company. SCE&G, CP&L, and Lockhart now come before the

Commission requesting the same waivers and modifications to

Regulations 103-318 and 103-373.

First, with regard to Regulation 103-318, we held in Order No.

95-1355 that the current rule which requires the utility to

maintain test records for three years after the meter's retirement

is unduly burdensome. Large volumes of records must be kept under

this Regulation. Duke also stated and the Commission approved the

notion that maintaining a meter test record for the number of years

as required by the Regulation is not necessary. Duke requested,

and the Commission approved, a modification allowing it to

implement a retention period based on the meter's last test date,
rather than the retirement date. Duke requested, and the
Commission approved, that the retention period be three years from
the date of the last test. We have examined the request for waiver
of Regulation 103-318 in the present case, and the requested
modification therein, and believe that such should be granted based
on the reasoning as stated above.

Further, with regard to Regulation 103-373 concerning test
procedures and accuracies, Duke proposed, and the Commission
approved, a waiver of the rule to allow the Company to use a method
of determining average error which is consistent with the American
National Standards Institute. The current rule is more restrictive
than the standard which provides a plus or minus 2% as acceptable
and that a meter should be adjusted to plus or minus 1%. Under
Regulation 103-340, a company is not required to adjust bills if
the accuracy is within plus or minus 2%; however, the current rule
requires Duke to adjust the meter to .5%. With an increased number
of customers requesting to be present for a test, application of
the current rule results in customer confusion and irritation.
Further, customers find it difficult to understand why the meter
must be adjusted but the bill is not adjusted. In addition, the
effort to adjust the meter to within a very narrow range of plus or
minus .5% can be time consuming. Several attempts may be required
for the meter technician to adjust the meter to within the very
stringent guidelines. Duke had requested, and the Commission
granted, a requirement that the Company adjust meters only if they
are shown to register outside a band of plus or minus 1%

accuracy. The Commission has examined this matter, including this request for waiver and suggested modification, and agrees that it should be adopted as filed for all three of the other regulated electric utilities.

Regulation 103-301(3) allows a waiver of Regulations in any case where compliance introduces unusual difficulty. The Regulation allows the Commission to waive Regulations upon a finding by the Commission that such waiver is in the public interest. Order No. 95-1355 found these requests to be in the public interest. We believe that this finding is applicable in the present situation. Also, that compliance with the Regulations as stated introduces an unusual difficulty and that, therefore, the waiver and modifications as proposed by SCE&G, CP&L, and Lockhart should be granted. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Executive Director

(SEAL)